

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Traumatic brain injury is a serious, national public health epidemic affecting at least 3.1 million Americans who live with a life-long disability as a result of traumatic brain injury resulting in a life-altering experience that can include the most serious physical, cognitive, and emotional impairments; and,

Whereas, About 52,000 people will die, 275,000 will be hospitalized, and 1.365 million will be treated and released from an emergency department; and,

Whereas, In the next year, an estimated 1.7 million Americans, including 475,000 children, will sustain a traumatic brain injury; and,

Whereas, Traumatic brain injuries are caused by falls – 35 percent, car crashes – 17 percent, workplace accidents – 16 percent, assaults – 10 percent, and other – 21 percent; and,

Whereas, The rate of combat-related brain injuries in soldiers returning from conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan appears to be higher than in previous wars; and,

Whereas, About 75 percent of traumatic brain injuries that occur each year are concussions and other forms of mild traumatic brain injury; and,

Whereas, The lack of public awareness is so vast that traumatic brain injury is known in the disability community as the nation's "silent epidemic"; and,

Whereas, The Brain Injury Association of America has recognized March as Brain Injury Awareness Month; and,

Whereas, The designation of the state Brain Injury Awareness Month will work toward enhancing public awareness of traumatic brain injury:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 2012 as

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to observe the month by participating in appropriate programs and activities.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventeenth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State